

ND EMS Update – COVID-19 03/24/2020

A clarification from WSI:

Are employees who contract COVID-19 eligible for workers' compensation benefits?

- **Diseases to which the general public outside of employment are exposed are specifically excluded from workers' compensation coverage in North Dakota. COVID-19 fits into this exclusion. Even though it may be contended an employee contracted COVID-19 while working, the employee is not eligible for workers' compensation benefits for this type of illness**
- Thank you to those who are updating their information in Big Picture.
 - Clarification: 'Contact Person' is usually the person who can be contacted in reference to general issues and could be a non-medical secretary or the squad leader and usually is only one person. If the providers who are listed as squad members on the agency roster and have a current email address, then they will be included in our mass emails.
- Reiterate the importance of social distancing.
- Have in place a pre-shift wellness screening for providers going on duty.
- Vigilance in not reporting for work if you have flu like, fever or respiratory illness symptoms.
- Webinar: **Crisis Standards of Care and COVID-19: What EMS Needs to Know**
 - Hosted by NHTSA's Office of EMS on Thursday, March 26 at 3pm ET / 12pm PT, this webinar will feature experts on implementing crisis standards of care at the state and local levels.
- [Register Now](#)
- Schedule FIT testing for responders so they know the appropriately sized mask needed.
- Make orders to the state medical cache for supplies needed through HAN Assets.
- Regularly check CDC and ND Department of Health COVID-19 websites for updates.
- Early pre-notification of hospital for suspect case(s) being transported.
- Proper handling and disposal of disposable equipment and PPE.
- Update and familiarize your responders with your local infection control protocol.
- Share this information with other local responding entities.
- Work with fire and law enforcement. Assist them with FIT testing and access their expertise in de-con, scene safety, etc.

** We must be extremely careful that we do not aid in the transfer of COVID-19 virus to the at-risk populations as well as our own families.**